

RECEIVED  
CENTRAL FAX CENTER  
NOV 02 2006

Application No.: 09/870180

Case No.: 54538US011

REMARKS

Claims 22 to 36 are pending. Claims 1-21 and 32 were previously canceled. No claims are currently amended.

§ 103 Rejections

Claims 22-25 and 28-36 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,735,988 to Chau et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,712,706 to Stamm and further in view of either one of JP 042096876 or JP 08157793. Claims 26 and 27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chau et al., Stamm, and either one of JP 042096876 or JP 08157793 as applied to claims 22-25 and 28-36, and further in view of Rowland (U.S. Patent No. 3,810,804).

In the August 7, 2006 Office Action, the Examiner states that "[i]f applicants maintain the assertion that acrylic based epoxy resins do not necessarily have pressure-sensitive properties applicants should support that assertion with a showing of an acrylic based epoxy adhesive not including other monomers specifically demonstrating the adhesive is without pressure-sensitive properties" (pages 6-7). Applicant submits with this Response a Declaration under 37 C.F.R. 1.132 of Bimal V. Thakkar. In his Declaration, Dr. Thakkar concludes that "Ebecryl 3720 is an acrylic based epoxy material not including other monomers, and Ebecryl 3720 does not qualify as a pressure-sensitive adhesive in either its uncured or cured form" (Paragraph 12).

Applicant believes that the rejections of claims 22-36 under 35 USC § 103(a) have been overcome and should be withdrawn.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

November 2, 2006  
Date

By: Sandra K. Nowak  
Sandra K. Nowak, Reg. No.: 53,666  
Telephone No.: 651-733-1543

Office of Intellectual Property Counsel  
3M Innovative Properties Company  
Facsimile No.: 651-736-3833